(b) what was the amount of total expenditure incurred on these conferences;

(c) what was the number of international conferences held in other countries attended by India alongwith the number of delegates during 1987 and 1988; and

(d) what is the total expenditure spent on attending these conferences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Railway Canteens in Delhi**

14. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the numbe of railway canteens being run at various places in Delhi/New Delhi, alongwith the names of the places;

(b) what is the number of complaints received during the last two years, canteen-wise;

(c) for what period a manager/incharge is normally posted at railway canteens;

(d) what are the details of canteens where managers/incharges have overstayed; and

(e) what steps are being taken to transfer them to other places and also to improve the services at various railway canteens in Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Railways run three Refreshment rooms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazarat Nizamuddin Railway stations, and six units in the Parliament House Complex in Delhi area.

(b) Number of complaints received in the last two years 1987 and 1988 is as under:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Delhi | - | 5 |
| New Delhi | - | 44 |
| Hazarat Nizamuddin | - | 31 |
| Parliament House Complex | - | 6 |

(c) No specific period has been prescribed.

(d) Does not arise

(e) No transfar is proposed at present. Steps taken to further improve catering services at various refreshment rooms including those in Delhi and New Delhi include inspections by officers and supervisors, use of modern kitchen equipments, use of standard quality raw-material, training to staff etc.

**Inadequate road facilities**

15. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance of both the National and State Highways in the country has been very poor which has led to substantial increase in vehicle user cost; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Constitutionally, the Government of India are primarily responsbile for roads declared as National Highways. State Highways are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Apart from inadequate maintenance, deficiencies in road width and crust thickness in relation to traffic demand also contribute to increase in vehicle user costs. Efforts are being made to provide as much funds as possible for maintenance and development of National Highways keeping in